Lafayette Historical Society
P.O. Box 133
Lafayette, CA 94549

Bulletin, Vol IX No. 1 *October, 1980*
President: Ted Craig *Newsletter Editor; Lucy Wait*

NEXT GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 25, 1980

Our next general meeting will be on Tuesday, November 25, 1980, at 8 p.m., in the Lafayette School auditorium. Mr. Wayne Korsiner will talk about the Black Diamond Coal Mines of Nortonville. The mines are located about four miles south of Antioch and Pittsburg, on the foothills of Mount Diablo.

Mr. Korsiner is a University of California History graduate (1960) and has taught American History in Antioch High School for the last sixteen years. He is very much interested in the History of California and in the historical background of Contra Costa County.

His presentation will be based on a sequence of stories about the major events involving the people of Nortonville; depicting its development, its problems and its decline within a period of twenty five years.

It will be an educational and enjoyable evening for all of us.

THE LAFAYETTE HORSE AND CARRIAGE DAYS PARADE

The Lafayette Horse and Carriage Days Parade is scheduled for October 11 at 10 a.m. This very pleasant and colorful event started about eight years ago to celebrate the City's 25th anniversary.

"Old Betsy", Lafayette's original fire engine, will again be at the lead. Faithfully restored and now in tip top running condition, this historical relic is a favorite of parade viewers.

The intent of the parade is to give local community groups the opportunity to share skills and talents with the city's residents. The parade is made possible with the Kiwanis Club sponsorship of about 75 different entries including school bands, scout troops, dancing and gymnastic schools, and music groups. The people gather, in larger numbers each year, to cheer and enjoy the show as it makes its traditional loop along Mount Diablo Boulevard.

EXHIBITS

Angela Broadhead, our Displays Chairman, was responsible for the window display at Lafayette Federal Savings commemorating Acalanes High School 40th birthday. The exhibit was located to the side of the bank's building adjacent to what was, until recently, The Refectory Restaurant.

A letter sweater, a student handbook, a newspaper article about the proposed plans for the school, photographs and other memorabilia were part of the display that also included data about the first members of the School's Board and the Faculty as well as the architects in charge of the design and the $333,000.00 bond issued for the cost of the school.

Angela has now arranged a new exhibit beginning October 1st, at the same location. Its name is 'There Will Always Be A Campaign' and consists of a private collection of 19th and 20th century political buttons. This timely display will be on view until the date of the presidential election.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Dorothy Elizabeth Helmick died April 1 in Princeton, New Jersey, after a lengthy illness.

Dorothy was on the first Lafayette Historical Society Board; she participated in the Oral History Project and was in charge of the plaquing of the Methodist Church in 1975, (which was the third grammar school in Lafayette.) She was also president of the Lafayette Newcomers.

Her keen interest and involvement in California History extended to the Oakland Museum where she was in the first History Docent training program; besides her very active participation as a docent, Dorothy was also Docent Council President in 1971-72.

HISTORICAL PICTURES ON DISPLAY

Mr. Jeffrey F. Yee, owner of The Lafayette Grill and Bar, located at 3707 Mt. Diablo Blvd., has chosen about fifty photographs from our extensive collection of historical pictures to be used as a decorating theme for his restaurant; which will depict the development of Lafayette.

Prior to their involvement in Lafayette, Mr. Yee and his Associate Mr. Hom spent many years in executive positions with Trader Vic's both throughout the country as well as in Canada and Europe.

A SPECIAL DONATION

Many thanks to Thomas Cleveland who donated the surplus remaining in his campaign fund following the City Council elections because "I know you will mingle it with other funds for a continuation of good works by LHS".

RECENT ACQUISITIONS FOR THE FILES OF THE SOCIETY

1 - Photographs from the 1920's and 1930's donated by Kathrine and Emelia Schutt are being processed. Kathrine and Emelia now live in Calistoga. Emelia was postmistress from 1927 to 1951 and Kathrine was named Miss Lafayette in a beauty contest. Kathrine worked for Coronel Garrett, one of the early realtors in town, who built the turreted brick building at 3565 Mount Diablo Boulevard.

In a recent letter Kathrine wrote: "We were at the Lafayette Methodist Church Sunday. They presented Emelia with a beautiful corsage as being the oldest (not in age) member of the Church, (1926)".

Almost as old as the town it serves, the Lafayette Community Methodist Church celebrated its 125th anniversary on Sunday, September 28. The Church was established in 1855 when pioneer citizens gathered at Elam Brown's home for Sunday Services. The first church was built in the 1850's on Golden Gate Way, with Brown, Nathaniel Jones, Benjamine Shreve and Milo Hough active in its establishment. Peter Thompson, the village blacksmith, was Sunday School Superintendent and services were conducted by laymen and visiting ministers until 1868 when Rev. Richard Klinick became the first pastor. In 1885 the old church building was moved to land donated by Brown near the corner of Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Oakland St. A few years later the congregation moved again.

According to Ms. Schutt, the photo of the church donated to the Society was taken from Monroe Avenue. She bought the lot she is standing on for $250.00; $25.00 down and $10.00 a month - and a corner lot for $400.00.

2 - A study of A Proposed Scenic Corridor Highway 80/24 In Contra Costa County, June, 1980. This pamphlet contains several of the Lafayette Historical Society photographs.

3 - Copies of two letters written by Carrie Hough Van Meter to her brother Frank Hough in 1921 and donated by Robert Hough. (Carrie Van Meter was Postmistress of Lafayette from 1904 to 1927 and Librarian from 1915 to 1947.)

We wish to thank each and everyone of the persons who have contributed materials for the files in the past year.

FILES

The Lafayette Historical Society files in the Special Collections Room of the Lafayette Library contain copies of historic photos, news clippings, oral history transcripts and many other items of historical interest. The public is welcome to use the materials in the library and should ask at the reference desk for someone to unlock the file cabinets.

The Lafayette Library is open the following days:

Monday and Wednesday	12 noon to 9 p.m.
Tuesday, Friday, Saturday	10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

LAFAYETTE HISTORY BOOK

The second impression of "Lafayette - A Pictorial History" is on sale at the Needlepoint Shop on Lafayette Circle (where you can also find stationary and postcards with historical themes), at the Lafayette Grill & Bar (Mt. Diablo Blvd.), Lafayette Camera Shop, and the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce. This second edition is indeed handsome and makes for a lovely Christmas present at a very reasonable price - six dollars ($6.00) per copy. The book can also be ordered by mail from:

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 133
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WALKING TOUR

Learn more of Lafayette's history on an historical walk led by a member of the Lafayette Historical Society on Saturday, October 18. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall, corner of Moraga Road and School Street. (In case of rain, walk will be cancelled.)

HELP HELP HELP

Help is needed this Fall to arrange materials in the files. Please contact Betsy Willcuts at 283-0706 if you can donate a few hours to this project.

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

We now have eighty five paid members. The M. H. Stanley family is our most recent life membership participant. We hope to increase this number of members with your help in spreading the word about our organization. The larger the membership, the more we can do to preserve, display and protect our town's history.

Those members who have not sent their dues for this year can still do so using the tear-off sheet at the end of this newsletter.

Your help in the different areas that the Society covers is constantly needed; a few hours donated by you can go a long way to reach our goals and to ease the work-load of one given individual. We would very much appreciate it if you check any of the subjects mentioned in the tear-off sheet, and write your name and phone number. (Ignore the part about the dues if you have already paid.) Your participation is indeed invaluable.

Do you have any suggestions?
Are there any articles and/or news you would like to share with the members of the Society?? Any and all forms of participation will be welcome. Please write to:

LAFAYETTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
c/o Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 133
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